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| EXAMINER |
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HESS, MICHAEL THOMAS

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3709

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06/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/629,171 | Applicant(s) HUNG ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Michael T. Hess | Art Unit 3709 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/28/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/28/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - ¶ [0001], line 9, "known" should be changed to "unknown";
 - ¶ [0003], last line on P. 1, "when there is" is grammatically incorrect and should be changed to say "when it is"; and
 - ¶ [0004], line 11, "ensure securely engaging" is grammatically incorrect and should be changed to say "ensure secure engaging."Appropriate correction is required.
2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Claim 9 recites "stacked first and second plates" which is not positively recited in the description of Applicants' invention. Thus, "stacked first and second plates" lacks proper antecedent basis in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,416,353 to Hwang et al. (Hwang).

In Reference to Claim 1

An extraction tool, assembled to an electrical connector for disengaging the electrical connector from a mating electrical device, comprising:

a pull tab (Ref. # 70); and

a retention element (Ref. #s 702 and 72) comprising a connection portion (Ref. # 702) extending from the pull tab (Fig. 1) and a fixing portion (Ref. # 72) fixed on the pull tab (Fig. 2) to form a closed loop for enclosing the electrical connector therein.

In Reference to Claim 2

The extraction tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pull tab (Ref. # 70) comprises an engaging portion (Ref. # 704), the connection portion extending from the engaging portion (See Fig. 1).

In Reference to Claim 3

The extraction tool as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the engaging portion (Ref. # 704) and the fixing portion (Ref. # 72) overlap each other (Fig. 2) and each defines a hole for engaging with the electrical connector (See Fig. 1; Ref. # 704 and there inherently will be a hole in fixing portion 72 to connect neck portion 727 to fixing portion 72).

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In Reference to Claim 4

The extraction tool as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pull tab (Ref. # 70) comprises a handling portion (Ref. # 701) extending from the engaging portion (Fig. 1).

In Reference to claim 5

A cable connector assembly comprising:

a cable connector comprising an upright mating portion (Ref. # 30) and a cable-retaining (Ref. # 561) portion perpendicularly extending from the mating portion (Fig. 1);
and

an extraction tool (Ref. # 7) for extracting the cable connector from an electrical device which mates with the cable connector, the extraction tool comprising a pull tab (Ref. # 70) and a retention element (Ref. #s 702 and 72), the pull tab (Ref. # 70) engaging with a section of the mating portion (Ref. # 30) of the cable connector (Fig. 2), the retention element (Ref. #s 702 and 72) comprising a connection portion (Ref. # 702) extending from the pull tab (Ref. # 70) and a fixing portion (Ref. # 72) fixed on the pull tab (Ref. # 70) to form an upright loop enclosing the mating portion of the cable connector therein (Fig. 2).

In Reference to Claim 6

The cable connector assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pull tab (Ref. # 70) comprises an engaging portion (Ref. # 704) engaging with the mating portion of the cable connector (Fig. 2), the connection portion extending from the engaging portion (See Fig. 1).

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In Reference to Claim 7

The cable connector assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the engaging portion (Ref. # 704) and the fixing portion (Ref. # 72) overlap each other (Fig. # 2) and each defines a hole for engaging with the mating portion of the electrical connector (See Fig. 1; Ref. # 704 and there inherently will be a hole in fixing portion 72 to connect neck portion 727 to fixing portion 72).

In reference to Claim 8

The cable connector assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the pull tab (Ref. # 70) comprises a handling portion (Ref. # 701) extending from the engaging portion (Fig. # 1).

In Reference to Claim 9

An electrical connector assembly comprising:

a cable connector (Ref. # 1) including a vertical mating section (Ref. # 30) with a horizontal cable retaining portion (Ref. # 561) extending from said mating section;

an extracting tool (Ref. # 7) including stacked first (Ref. # 301) and second plates (Ref. # 72) located below (the direction "below" is a relative direction and if the cable connector assembly 1 is put on its side, first 301 and second 72 plates will be stacked and below the cable retaining portion 561) the cable retaining portion (Ref. # 561), wherein through both of said first (Ref. # 301) and second (Ref. # 72) plates said mating section (Ref. # 30) extends downwardly (mating portion 30 is in the middle of the sets of first 301 and second 72 plates extending from pull tab 72 and extends downward), a connection portion (Ref. # 702) linked between said first plate (Ref. # 301) and said

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second (Ref. # 72) plate to form a loop configuration surrounding said cable retaining portion (Fig. 2); and

a pull tab (Ref. # 70) extending from one of said first (Ref. # 301) and second (Ref. # 72) plates and said connection portion (Ref. # 702; see Fig. 2).

In Reference to Claim 10

The assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pull tab (Ref. # 70) extends from the first plate (Ref. # 301) which is located upon the second plate (Ref. # 72, see Fig. 2).

In Reference to Claim 11

The assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pull tab (Ref. # 70) defines an aperture through which a cable (Ref. # 9) of said cable connector (Ref. # 1) extends (see Fig. 1).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. United States Patent No. 5108306 to Wellinsky is relevant prior art because it discloses a pull tab for extracting electrical connectors substantially similar to Applicants' invention.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael T. Hess whose telephone number is 571-270-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Bomberg can be reached on 571-272-4922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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THAO X. LE
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER